

Council of Deans
October 14, 2015

The Council of Deans met in regular session at 9:02 a.m. on Wednesday, October 14, 2015. Steve Runge presided, and the following members were present: Michael Hargis, Maurice Lee, Victoria Groves-Scott, Kurt Boniecki, Stephanie Bellar, Jimmy Ishee, Terry Wright, Steve Addison and Laura Young. Jonathan Glenn joined the meeting at 10:05 a.m. Angela Webster Smith, Associate Vice President for Institutional Diversity was present for agenda item number one.

- 1) A. Webster-Smith provided council members with an update on the work of the Office of Institutional Diversity that included a brief overview of the following:
 - Activities planned for the 2015-2016 academic year including a new Leadership Lens presentation series.
 - The Office of Institutional Diversity's strategic plan
 - The new diversity statement included in UCA Board policy
 - The Institutional Diversity Grant Program
 - The launch of a new Academic Bridge Connection program.Discussion followed.
- 2) The CoD minutes of October 7, 2015 were approved.
- 3) S. Runge provided council members with an update regarding the ongoing discussion about potential strategic realignment within the College of Fine Arts and Communication. S. Runge and T. Wright will meet with faculty in the Department of Writing on Thursday and meet with the departments of Communication and Mass Communication and Theatre soon thereafter to continue the discussion. Colleges and departments are encouraged to consider areas that may be elevated or strengthened from some form of realignment. Discussion followed.
- 4) S. Runge advised council members that the search for a new Dean of the Honors College will soon begin (Dr. Rick Scott, current dean, has provided notification of his intent to step down from the position and return to a faculty role effective July 1, 2016). Council members are asked to provide nominations of two individuals from each college to serve on the search committee to the Provost's office by Friday afternoon. Discussion followed.
- 5) J. Glenn provided council members with an overview of the new Academic Bulletin page on the university website. The page includes a direct link for the current undergraduate and graduate bulletins, as well as previous editions of both bulletins. Discussion followed.
- 6) Provost's Announcements:
 - S. Runge met with students Hasani Mason and Zach Carter, SGA President, last week to discuss the low graduation rate of African-American male students on

campus. Discussions will continue as we look for ways to assist these students in meeting the challenges they face in a university environment. This will be done in collaboration with the Office of Diversity and Community.

- The Provost's office took part in a second phase of the Active Shooter Training provided by the UCAPD which included participation in mock shooter scenarios. Council members are asked to encourage their departments to schedule these trainings for faculty and staff.
- S. Runge met with Mike DeLong, Pulaski Tech Provost, to discuss Pulaski Tech's interest in creating a University Center on their campus.
- Dr. Charles Long, Apple Education Development Executive, will provide UCA faculty with a classroom technology demonstration at X-period on October 15, 2015 in the CoB auditorium.
- Applications for spring 2016 reassigned time are due to the Provost's office by the end of the day tomorrow. Applications for fall 2016 reassigned time are due to the Provost's office by January 15, 2016.
- Trustee Joe Whisenhunt will meet with the Provost on Monday as part of his BOT assignment with Academic Affairs. T. Wright and J. Ishee will attend a portion of this meeting.
- The Council of Deans will meet with a team from the marketing and advertising firm of Eric, Rob and Isaac on November 11th to discuss marketing strategy. [This has since been rescheduled for October 28th]
- A diversity strategic planning meeting is scheduled for November 12th. All college/department/unit diversity committee members will be invited to attend.
- Faculty forums are currently being scheduled with each college for the purpose of discussing possible expansion of the definition of tenurable ranks.
- The Council of Deans will not meet the week of Thanksgiving.

7) Member Reports:

- J. Glenn notified council members that after winter break, his work will focus heavily on the preparation of the university's Higher Learning Commission assurance argument; however, he will continue to assist in other areas as needed.
- M. Hargis stated that the College of Business will be hosting the Arkansas Insurance Hall of Fame Banquet tomorrow night at 6:00 p.m. in the Farris Center. UCA currently has the only undergraduate program for insurance and risk management in the state. Proceeds from the event will be used to support the Insurance and Risk Management program.
- V. Scott stated that she has been contacted by representatives of the Teach for Tomorrow program, and they have identified a group of high school students who are interested in becoming teachers. She will be inviting the group of students to tour the UCA campus and meet with CoE faculty during the spring 2016 semester.
- T. Wright stated that Communication Week events are taking place this week. Arkansas journalist Suzi Parker spoke at last night's event. Information on other events can be found on the website at <https://uca.edu/news/communication-week->

[set-for-oct-12-16/](#). Jennifer Gerber, Assistant Professor in the Department of Mass Communication and Theatre, recently received an Individual Artist Award from the Arkansas Arts Council.

- L. Young stated that the deadline for graduation applications for December 2016 graduation was this past Friday. A number of students did not get their applications submitted in time, but they will be allowed to submit them late.
- S. Runge advised council members that space in Torreyson West will be repurposed to provide an area for disability testing and will include the addition of an ADA compliant restroom.
- J. Glenn encouraged deans to advise department chairs that faculty should be reminded to include the required building emergency plan language in course syllabi. Language can be found at <http://uca.edu/academicaffairs/files/2014/10/course-syllabus-requirements.docx>.

The meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.